

## EXPERIMENTS: CHILLING THE CACTUS AND SUNBAKING THE FERN

This experiment can be used to support Activity Cards VEGETATION and CLIMATE CHANGE.

### PURPOSE

To investigate the effect of changing conditions in a cactus and a fern.

### EQUIPMENT

This experiment will need to be conducted over several weeks. Students could also conduct this experiment at home.

- 2 potted ferns
- 2 potted cacti
- Access to a fridge
- Digital camera

### PROCEDURE

Label each plant

- Put one cactus in the fridge
- Leave the control cactus on a sunny windowsill
- Put one fern in full sun
- Leave the control fern in a semi shaded place, preferably a greenhouse
- Water all four plants equally
- Photograph each plant every 2 days, making sure the label is visible

### RESULTS

Print out and arrange the photographs. Observe results using the sequence of photographs you have taken.

### CONCLUSIONS

Discuss: Compare the control plants with the experimental plants.

### SOLVING THE CRIME

In which crime site have conditions changed?

What is the cause of any change?

Have any of the victims been harmed by changes in their habitat?